

The executive department of the Government which deals with foreign affairs had its origin in the "Committee of Secret Correspondence", selected by the Continental Congress in Phila. 29 November, 1775. In 1777 the name of the Committee was changed to the "Committee for Foreign Affairs" and in January 1781, there was laid before Congress a plan for the Department of Foreign Affairs, the opening paragraph of which read, That the extent and rising power of these United States entitles them to a place among the great potentates of Europe, while our political and commercial interests point out the propriety of cultivating a friendly correspondence and connection. The Department was organized in 1781. The first Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the Articles of Confederation was Robert R. Livingston of New York, the only incumbent of this office before the adoption of the Constitution being John Jay. By the act of July 1789 there came into existence, as the first executive department of the Government under the Constitution, the Department of Foreign Affairs. It was placed under the direction of a Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs. Also during 1789 while sitting up other branches of our Government it was decided to incorporate some of the duties of Home Affairs with the ~~Department of Foreign Affairs~~ ^{DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS}. Thus its functions became extended and its name was changed to Department of State. (Incidentally, Thomas Jefferson submitted to the Treasury an estimate of the expenses of the Department of State for the year 1790 and the total expense was \$8,061----- an idea of the scope of the Department at that time)

The Secretary of State is regarded as the first in rank of the cabinet members. Previous to 1947 he was to be the No. 1 man in the White House in case of vacancy in the office of President or Vice-President but last years legislation named the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate ahead of him in order of succession not because of loss of significance of his office but as President Truman suggested the other two named offices are more accurate representatives of the people. The duties of the Secretary of State involve mainly as serving as the personal representative of the President, by whom he is appointed. This practice of appointment by the President has been criticized for many people have felt that the Secretary of State may come to his office by the route of the "Spoils System" This has been true in some cases but a good example of this not being true is our own present day Secretary of State, George C. Marshall. The duties of the Secretary of State are designated by the President and are to be carried out in the manner which he directs. The delicate and confidential nature of his duties has rendered him peculiarly close to the President. In his capacity and especially in relation to foreign affairs he has over-shadowed the President many times in importance. He acts as the medium of correspondence with foreign countries and with the executives of theseveral States of the Union. He is not considered as responsible to Congress and any directorate to him unless it is routine duties, is routed via the President. He may be called upon to appear before a committee of Congress

but it is not the general rule. A good example of his appearing was in behalf of his own Marshall Plan. A great many of our Secretaries of State have eventually become Presidents of the United States (e.g.) Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, James Buchanan

Assistant Secretaries of State have been added from time to time until we now have four. These Assistant Secretaries do not conduct the office of the Secretary in his absence for an Under-Secretary of State has been appointed for that position. The Assistant Secretaries rank as first secretary, second secretary etc. but they are all called Secretaries of State, disregarding the number. The duties of the Assistant Secretaries are considered to be the proper administration of the Dep't of State and usually are considered career men, though this is not always true for they are also appointed by the President. They are usually picked from the diplomatic corps because of the nature of their work. An Assistant Secretary is charged with all matters pertaining to foreign commercial policy, commercial treaties, transportation and communication, and so forth, and supervises the Office of the Economic Adviser. In the absence of the Secretary of State and the Under-Secretary of State, he becomes the acting Secretary of State. He has supervision over the division of passport control, the Office of Coordination and Review, and the Visa Office. He makes decisions in citizenship and other cases involving complex questions of law and policy, and is consulted by the officers of the department upon matters of diplomatic procedure, and general questions of international law and procedure, particularly when involving the traditional practices of the Department of State. He is charged with the administration of the department, administrative matters concerning international conferences and commissions and with matters concerning ceremonial and protocol. He has supervision over the Division of Publications, the Bureau of Accounts, and the Bureau of Indexes and Archives. He is charged with the presentation to the President of Ambassadors and ministers of foreign countries newly accredited to the United States and is a member of the Foreign Service Personnel Board. He directs the Consular Service and all consular activities in connection with the work of the several bureaus and divisions of the Department. His office has charge of the censoring, grading and criticizing of commercial and economic reports. He is also the Budget Officer of the Department of State. He is a member of the Foreign Service Personnel Board. After reading all of these duties it is very evident why it is important to have a man as Assistant Secretary who is a member of the Diplomatic Corps and who is a good administrative officer.

The Under-Secretary of State is the right hand man of the Secretary of State and is ver important in the discharge of many of the duties of the Secretary of State. He aids in the formulation and execution of the foreign policies of the government, and in the reception of representatives of foreign governments. In matters which do not require the actual presence of the Secretary of State, he acts for the Secretary. He is charged with the general direction of the work of the Department of State and of the Foreign Service, and is chairman of the Foreign Service Personnel Board.

The Department of State may be summed up as the backbone of our foreign policy and economic policy. It is a part of our executive branch of government which is responsible only to the President of the United States except in matters of which are routine in nature. Its officers are men who are very instrumental in steering the foreign policy of our country and who should be men well versed in such matters.